

**Around
USAG Benelux**

USAG Benelux

Meteor-Heraut transformation

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Meteor-Heraut newspaper is being published electronically as new publisher negotiations continue.

Electronic editions of the Meteor-Heraut are sent via email across USAG Benelux community and available on-line at www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil.

Retiree Appreciation

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux is hosting the 16th annual Retiree Appreciation Day on Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the auditorium, building 30, Caserne Daumerie.

The event open to all U.S. military retirees and their family members, starts with a free continental breakfast and will provide retirees with valuable information on retirement services, VA benefits, medical and dental care, and much more.

The various program participants will also be available for individual questions and discussion.

A no-host luncheon will immediately follow at the Prime Time Lounge, Caserne Daumerie. To reserve for lunch, please call 010/810345.

For more information on the Retiree Appreciation Day, call DSN 423-4575.

Hispanic Heritage

Hispanic Heritage Month began on Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared independence on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

This year's theme is "Our Rich Culture Contributing to America's future". Look out for flyers on events scheduled in your community.

If you would like to be on a team to share the Hispanic experience with the schools, call DSN 423-3805.

Guardian Shield 06 American, Belgians and Dutch join efforts to 'Sharpen the Sword'

By Marie-Lise Baneton
Benelux Public Affairs office
 HEIDELBERG, Germany - A team of U.S. and host nation leaders and consequence management experts from the Benelux gathered in Heidelberg, Germany for the Guardian Shield 06 exercise held at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion Sept. 13-15.

The team, led by U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Benelux Commander Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, joined approximately 100 other representatives of U.S. government agencies to train with them in the event of a biological terrorist attack in the Benelux.

The exercise, a second in the history of the United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army (USAREUR), was the first for the Benelux garrison participants.

"It was our time to participate, and I'm glad that we are," Nowowiejski said. Although military and civilian staff members of the local garrisons in Chièvres and Brussels, Belgium and in Schinnen, the Netherlands have often trained together and worked through several real world emergencies, the opportunity to train with higher headquarters on their respective processes is unheard of.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) prepared the exercise with the various organizations involved for months and provided facilitators for the discussions.

The intent of the exercise was to train participants for worst case scenarios and to challenge the garrisons and their higher headquarters to multiple, simultaneous and dissimilar crisis events. The exercise tested their interoperability

with the European Command (EUCOM), other major commands, both host nations emergency responders, the Department of State and other external agencies.

The program included a full day of lectures and discussions, a table top exercise and an after action review.

On the first day, attendees heard about systems and processes from various host nation and U.S. leaders from Belgium and the Netherlands. Their host

exercise) is that we get to know each other for future cooperation, USAREUR Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling said in his introductory remarks. "Success is knowing who is on the other end of the phone."

If a crisis were to happen simultaneously in Belgium and the Netherlands, the role of the U.S. embassies in Brussels and The Hague would be critical, and issues would be handled at this level with the host nations' governments.

"We are guests in these sovereign countries, we have limited resources," said William Imbrie, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy, Brussels. "Know the people you would work with, what their roles are, how you would collaborate with them so you know how to best support them."

Just like U.S. military organizations work

issues through a chain of command, both Belgium and the Netherlands handle theirs through different echelons, depending on the nature of the crisis. Responsibilities are split between a local, provincial and federal level. In case of a terrorist attack against U.S. assets in either country, discussions would quickly elevate to an international level.

Although Belgium and the Netherlands are sovereign and independent nations, they share decades-long traditions of cooperation. The Benelux, an economic union of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, finds its roots in the Benelux Customs Union contract that was signed in 1944 and



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, Commander U.S. Army Garrison Benelux and Frans Beckers, Mayor of Schinnen, the Netherlands listen to their fellow consequence management experts during the Guardian Shield 06.

nation partners taught them how they operate and what Americans should or should not do. Other blocks of instruction included experts discussing weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, and higher headquarters briefings.

Although the exercise was about jointly sharpening skills to save lives, this year's version also included a large media relations portion. The importance of getting information to the public quickly and accurately without generating panic was a major lesson learned during Guardian Shield 05.

The first day of Guardian Shield 06 allowed participants to get to know how host nations and their U.S. counterparts operate to efficiently assist each other.

"The most important part (of this ex-

See EXERCISE, page 3

Make a World of Difference

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas (CFC-O), part of the largest workplace giving campaign in the world, has announced the CFC-O will run from Oct. 2 through Dec. 1 in the European, Central, Pacific and Southern Commands.

During the campaign, contributors may designate their donation to a variety of deserving U.S.-based charities through the CFC-O. In 2005, United States service members and Department of Defense civilians serving overseas raised over \$16 million for people in need in overseas military communities, our nation and our world.

"Year after year we continue to be impressed with the generosity of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and civilians now serving overseas. While serving in some of the most arduous circumstances,



they find it in their hearts to reach into their pockets. Seeing what they see and doing what they do, they truly express the value of giving to help others," said Renée Acosta, President of the campaign management organization for the CFC-O.

The CFC was created in the early 1960s in order to offer federal employees an efficient and effective way to give to their charity or charities of choice. The convenience of payroll deduction, the choice of over 1,900 participating charities and the confidence of a well run, regulated program all have contributed to the success of the CFC. In 2005 alone, over \$268.5 million was raised in over 300 campaigns to help people most in need.

The community project officer for the U. S. Army Garrison Benelux is Maria C. Schmitz. "If you don't

have any particular charity or organization that you want to contribute to, you can donate to the Family Support and Youth Programs (FSYP). Contributions to FSYP are returned to the installation or area and may be used to improve the quality of life for service members, civilians and their families," Schmitz said.

In the days to come, you will receive a CFC package that will include a catalog with all charity organizations you can donate to. You can also use the search engine on the CFC official website, www.cfcoverseas.org, to find key word related organizations.

Other points of contact are Sgt 1st Class Mohammad Tabassum, alternate for the USAG Benelux and Chièvres Garrison; Sgt. 1st Class David Williams as primary and Sgt. Jessenia Diaz-Lopez as alternate for the USAG Schinnen community and Sgt. Paul Dunn as primary and Denise Davis as alternate for the USAG Brussels community.



The following are questions customers submitted through the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Interactive Customer Evaluation (I.C.E.) system with the responses from the service provider.

I noticed some of the equipment at the USAG Brussels fitness center is out of date and does not offer a full variety of machines to complete a full body muscular program. Any idea when that will change?

The same observation was made by Brussels Fitness staff and they took appropriate measures to secure funding and order new equipment. During the months of July and August, new treadmills, cross trainers, recumbent bikes, upright bikes, leg presses and a "Smith" machine replaced old equipment. Although the rehabilitative machines (Medx) are not new, their methodology for working muscle groups is in concert with contemporary physiological training. The Brussels Fitness staff is confident in their ability to provide a full body workout and invite patrons to come and put the new and old equipment to the test.

Is there any way to get info posted on the USAG Benelux web about the process of driving in Belgium for newcomers preparing for the driver testing?

The USAG Benelux Transportation Office and the webmaster have teamed up and there is now a link on the USAG Benelux website (<http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil>) for newcomers needing information on how to get a SHAPE Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) license.

To submit questions, complaints, kudos or suggestions through the ICE program, logon to <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil> and click on the ICE logo.

McKiernan Sends #16-06 Freedom Team Salute Program

1. During these times of great sacrifice by Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terrorism and supporting contingencies around the world, the support provided by families and loved ones is more important than ever. Soldiers rely heavily on the quiet encouragement and support they receive.

2. To recognize those who support Soldiers during times of peace and war, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army established the Freedom Team Salute Program. This program gives Soldiers active duty, Reserve, and National Guard the opportunity to recognize parents, spouses, and employers for their support. The program may also be used to recognize veterans for their dedicated service and continued support of today's Soldiers.

3. To implement the Freedom Team Salute Program

in the European theater, each Soldier in the Army in Europe will be given an Army decal that provides instructions on how to nominate deserving individuals for recognition. Those who are selected for recognition will receive the program's commendation package, which includes an official Army lapel pin, a certificate of appreciation, and a letter of thanks signed by both the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army.

4. I charge leaders at all levels to support the Freedom Team Salute Program. Commanders will ensure that every Soldier receives a decal and is encouraged to nominate a supporter. This is a terrific opportunity for Soldiers to salute their families for their support. It is also an excellent way to strengthen the bond between Soldiers and civilians.

5. The USAREUR Freedom Team Salute Program Coordinator will soon begin distributing decals to units in the Army in Europe. Units that need more information may contact the Program Coordinator at DSN 370-3390.



General David D. McKiernan
Commanding General, USAREUR

Former 39th Signal Battalion Executive Officer assumes duties as Deputy Director IMA-Euro



Colonel Karen S. Adams
Deputy Region Director
Installation Management
Agency, Europe Region

she enlisted in the United States Army. After com-

pleting the Officer Candidate School in 1980, she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps. She received a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Organizational Development from Chapman University in 1991 and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2003. Adams has completed 28 years of active service.

Adams received her Baccalaureate degree in political science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 1977. In 1978,

she enlisted in the United States Army. After completing the Officer Candidate School in 1980, she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps. She received a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Organizational Development from Chapman University in 1991 and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2003. Adams has completed 28 years of active service.

Among her assignments are Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer of the 39th Signal Battalion, Chièvres, Belgium; Professor of Military Science, Army ROTC, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas; Deputy Director, Strategic Communications, Office of the Army Chief Information Officer at the Pentagon and Chief, Training and Mission Support Branch, Operations Division, IMA, Crystal City, Virginia.

www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil

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implemented in 1947.

The Benelux countries are pioneers of the European alliances we know today. "Both countries have trained together to terrorist plans and other crisis management issues," said Alain Lefèvre, who has been the director of the Belgian Federal Crisis Center in Brussels since 2002. He has handled presidential visits, NATO summits, and avian flu preparation plans at an international level.

"Our nations have agreements and common plans," Schinnen mayor Frans Beckers added. Beckers has been the mayor of the Dutch town since 1997, and has developed a strong relationship over the years with his American neighbors.

Foreign consequence management is a complex issue with U.S. military communities scattered over two host nations with different sets of laws as well as three different languages. Disseminating information during a crisis in this atmosphere can be difficult making close cooperation a priority.

By the end of the first day, participants were able to understand the complexities of dealing with crisis situations in their countries.

"I'm proud of our host nation relationships," Nowowiejski said. "We had their professionals here with us, speaking with authority of their mission. Our garrisons were able to showcase how we work with them on a day to day basis."

As the table top exercise kicked off, participants had been progressively walked through the scenario. They were divided into three groups: tactical, operational and strategic, just as they would operate in real world circumstances. They worked through the process and discussed how each organization would handle a specific situation.

"We have made substantial progress," Nowowiejski said after the review. "I wanted USAREUR to think of the Benelux when they think of USAREUR. People don't naturally think of us in the Benelux because we support NATO in a joint multinational environment, but we're USAREUR too."

Amongst the many lessons learned, some fields stand out as particularly critical. The dissemination and management of information are top priorities, as are the coordination with host nation authorities, personnel accountability, a collaborative execution of processes and plans, and the differences in medical protocols amongst nations. The requirement to integrate the U.S. and host nation plans became obvious.

At the end of the session, all agreed that 'the military are not in charge,' although the various U.S. agencies could provide their host nation partners the support in additional assets they request.

The commander's allies spoke with the same voice. "We've always had a good relation with the USAG Schinnen emergency responders," Beckers said. "But here I gained more insight and knowledge about procedures of the U.S. Forces in general, and

how the local garrison fits into the big picture."

Lefèvre agrees.

"I now have a better understanding of people, systems and procedures. In crisis management, it is important to know people on a day-to-day basis but, during exercises, you have to go deeper. This particular session allowed us to work together, see if there are major differences and, if so, find a common way to the best solution," he said.

Over the years Mayor Beckers has created professional bonds between his emergency responders and the Schinnen garrison.



PHOTO: Marie-Lise Baneton

Alain Lefèvre, director of the Belgian Federal Crisis Center in Brussels (left) sits next to Ton A.H. Zwennes, crisis coordinator with the Dutch Federal Ministry of Health (right), as he comments on the benefits of the exercise.

"We have tested our procedures many times and have created an emergency committee with our American neighbors," he said. "Twice a year, we have an exercise that involves our local fire brigade."

From the Belgian perspective, the various levels have participated in exercises with USAG Brussels, Chièvres Garrison, NATO and the U.S. Embassy Brussels.

"We must learn from each other because in consequence management, nobody can say 'I know it all,'" Lefèvre said. "We must build strong partnerships, to know each other and work better together so that if something happens, we are not blind."

Beckers echoes the statement.

"We've always had constructive relations with the garrison, but here I learned that we need even more events and more contacts, both formal and informal," he said. "It's always good to train because it allows you to take care of your weak points. In the future I will invest even more in relationships and exercises."

Nowowiejski, leader of USAG Benelux, shares their point of view. "We must continue to refine and exercise our plans" he said. "People know each other now. We just need to work closely with our local, provincial and federal partners from Belgium and the Netherlands, and with our Department of State counterparts," he added.

About the Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is an authorized unofficial civilian enterprise newspaper published for the U.S. Army under AR 360-1 for U.S. military personnel in the Benelux nations by the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux. Editorial content is provided by public affairs offices of the USAG Benelux, USAG Schinnen and USAG Brussels. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the USAG Benelux. Appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Defense, Department of the Army, or USAG Benelux of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered.
- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.
- No advertising is currently being accepted as the *Meteor-Heraut* completes the process of changing publishers.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

Electronic newspaper

The *Meteor-Heraut* will be published in an electronic format until the process of acquiring a new publisher is complete.

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Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
Sept. 25	Oct. 6	Oct. 23	Nov. 3	Nov. 20	Dec. 1	Jan. 3	Jan. 12
Oct. 9	Oct. 20	Nov. 6	Nov. 17	Dec. 4	Dec. 15		

Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities

Community Notes

New AAFES operating hours

Effective Oct. 2 the Main Exchange on Chièvres Air Base will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The Food court will be open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Both the main exchange and the food court will be closed on Mondays.

Mentor and study buddy programs

If you are interested in tutoring students at the SHAPE Elementary School during lunch or after school, you are invited to attend the free informational luncheon on Oct. 12 from noon to 1:15 p.m. at the SHAPE Elementary School, International Teacher's Lounge, building 716.

To reserve, call DSN 423-5714 and leave your name and phone number.

Tops in Blue Show

The Tops in Blue, composed of 35 talented vocalists, musicians, dancers and technicians, will perform Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the SHAPE cinema.

The show will last 60 to 90 minutes and is open to all free of charge.

Parlez-vous français?

Benelux Headstart is a five-day class free of charge that provides participants with French language instruction, information about Belgium and a field trip to Mons.

The next class is scheduled Oct. 16-20. U.S. service members enroll during in-processing. Family members, civilians and other nationalities are welcome on a space available basis. For more information, call DSN 423-3466.

Fall Clean-Up

The following dates and times have been set for the fall clean-up at the housing areas:

Maisières, Oct. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m.
Casteau, Oct. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m.
Ghlin and Lens, Oct. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m., and

Green Park, Oct. 25 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Bulk trash pick up of your green waste has been coordinated.

Chièvres Air Base runway gets facelift

By Cis Spook

Chièvres Public Affairs Office

Major reconstruction works of the runway and taxiways began Sept. 11 at Chièvres Air Base. The works, expected to last for the next 18 months, will be executed in three phases. Phase one is the renovation of the drainage system; phase two is the re-pavement of the runway, and phase three will consist of improving the taxiways and the airfield lighting system.

"Air Force personnel noticed a problem with the drainage in late 1996, early 1997," said Air Force Maj. Kelly S. Koepsell, 309th Airlift Squadron Airfield Operations at Chièvres. "Further examinations and photographs under the pavement revealed voids under the runway. In the year 2000, after some tactical analyses were made, experts at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force in Europe decided that in order to continue safe air traffic operations, the east end of the Chièvres air base runway could no longer be used. The runway had to be shortened by some 2,500 feet."

As a result, the airfield was no longer able to allow large aircraft to land or take off and the air traffic decreased by 35 to 45 percent from pre-year 2000 levels.

"Some rare exceptions were made to larger aircrafts - for instance a C-160 - to land and take off here," added Master Sgt. Carrol B. Anderson, Airfield

Manager, "but they had to have minimum fuel to land and take off, which means they needed an airfield close-by to refuel in time."



PHOTOS: Master Sgt. Carrol Anderson

Phase one of the reconstruction of the Chièvres Air Base runway has started with the demolition of the runway pavement in order to get access to the old drainage system.

79th Medical Detachment deactivates but service continues



PHOTO: Henri Cambier

Capt. Matthew J. Enroth, 79th Medical Detachment commander, cases the

unit's guidon with Sgt. Randy L. Billings during a recent deactivation ceremony on Caserne Daumerie at Chièvres.

"The 79th Medical Detachment has provided veterinary support for more than 50 years," stated Col. Michael A. Buley, 100th Medical Detachment commander during the ceremony. "Over the years, names and faces change but the character of the unit doesn't," Buley added.

"We provided support to five bases in three countries and we will continue to provide quality veterinary care and services as the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment Benelux Branch, based at Chièvres," Enroth mentioned.

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Sugar beet harvest



PHOTO: Cis Spook

The sugar beet harvest will start early October and last until the end of December. Since the sugar beets harvested locally are being delivered to the Brugelette sugar plant, there will be increased traffic in the Chièvres area as well as on road N56 from Mons to Chièvres. Be extremely careful as these vehicles will slow down the traffic, are often poorly lighted and may drop beets. Adjust your speed and keep safe distances.

USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community

Tri-Border community members commemorate September 11 in their own way

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Five years after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Tri-Border community members joined the rest of the nation in observing a solemn anniversary of the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and plane crashes with a remembrance ceremony and prayer luncheon held at Joint Forces Command (JFC) Brunssum and U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Schinnen respectively.

The day began with a special power luncheon held at USAG Schinnen Bowling Center themed "9-11, a Day of Remembrance." The luncheon was hosted by the USAG Schinnen Religious Support Office and offered attendees a spiritual uplifting message.

"Today we want to think about all the things that took place, not only five years ago, but continue to take place today in my life, in your life and in so many people's lives around this world," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Michalke.

Michalke relayed the significance of memorials by telling the biblical story of Joshua leading an army through the Jordan River and building a memorial from stones.

By building a memorial, Michalke says, that every time people would pass by, they would be reminded of the significance of what God had done and the sacrifices Joshua and his army had given—just like the Sept. 11 memorials today.

"When we think about 9-11, when we think about all that's taken place and all the memorials that are set-up, when we take a look at them in the paper or online, pause and think about what so many have sacrificed, some willingly and some unwillingly," said Michalke. "People gave their lives here in defense of freedom; people gave their lives and sacrifice in order to help other folks. Nobody wanted to die that day, somebody else had a plan for that and that's what their purpose was, but it's not what our purpose is. Our purpose is to live and serve the Lord. The memorials that are set-up are there to remind us of what God is really doing. God is taking care of those families."

Later in the day, a 9-11 memorial ceremony was held at JFC Brunssum.

The somber ceremony opened with a moment of silence and reflection at 3:46 p.m. central European summer time or 8:46 a.m. eastern time in respect to the time that the first plane crashed into the New York City World Trade Tower.

Reflecting on the day's events five years ago, stories of people who were in N.Y. and D.C. during the attacks were read aloud for everyone to hear. The ceremony ended with a video that depicted the horror, sacrifice and brotherhood that the nation faced in

the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks.

"For me, today's ceremony was just extremely moving because at that time I was not in the Army, I was pasturing a church, and when I saw those images for the first time, I remember the shock and the sadness but, also later the wonder of people pulling together and their faith in God through those kinds of events," said Chaplain (Cpt.) Michael Kiefman. "Today's anniversary is a time for us to remember, not only the people who died, though that's very important, but also the people who helped and the way people pulled together and the greatness of our nation because of the way people will work together in a time of crisis."

Observing in private

For some people, honoring the anniversary of Sept. 11 in private gave them a chance to reflect on the day's events in their own way.



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Soldiers and civilians come together at Joint Forces Command, Brunssum on the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks for a remembrance ceremony. The short and somber ceremony consisted of readings of first-hand account stories from the 9-11 attacks and a video which depicted the devastation of the 2001 events and the unity that brought together a nation.

Such as Lt. Col. John Haslin, who was working in the Pentagon on the morning of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Recalling the day's events, Haslin says that he and his colleagues were in their office watching TV in dismay when the planes hit in New York City.

Shortly after hearing about the second plane hitting one of the twin towers, and realizing that it was a terror attack, a colleague of Haslin remarked that the Pentagon could be the next target. Soon, he and his colleagues would realize that they were in fact a target and had been hit.

"There were about a dozen of us in that little office and we were all watching the events going on in New York and there was speculation about whether it was a terrorist attack or an accident—until the second plane hit and then there was no doubt in our military minds that it was a terrorist attack."

With his jacket on and backpack packed, Haslin was prepared to leave work that morning knowing that the Pentagon could be next, but, like the rest of the workers in his office he just couldn't leave cause he was "glued to the TV."

Unfortunately, for Haslin and his colleagues, it wouldn't be long before they would have to leave.

"The air pressure in our little office suddenly changed and we knew at that moment that the Pentagon had been hit."

From that point on, Haslin, along with the rest of his co-workers, calmly walked out of their office and headed downstairs to exit the building. It was after he was outside of the building that he was able to realize the true extent of the damage.

Fortunately for Haslin, he didn't know anyone personally that had been in the corridor that the airplane had hit. But, following the consecutive days after the 9-11 attacks, there were many memorials and eulogies that he had attended which he says he looked forward to. Coincidentally though, it was those memorials that prompted his feelings about the 9-11 anniversaries today.

"I was a bit jaded because I did attend many of the memorial services in the days immediately following the attack on the Pentagon," he said. "In fact, I think it was a week later that they had a big memorial service that was attended by all of the DoD leadership—and the auditorium was packed. And, for me, on that particular day it was an opportunity that I had looked forward too, but as it turned out, even though everyone was respectful, the thing that annoyed me on that day was that up and down the aisles there were dozens of photographers and camera men and I hated that aspect of that memorial service. There wasn't really the reverence. Photographers were exploiting the event, and for me, I didn't really see the purpose. It was a huge distraction for me to truly consider the events and consequences of those that lost their lives. So, for me, for the last five years, I tend, to be reverent and thoughtful in private."

For Rita Hoefnagels, a host nation employee at USAG Schinnen, the attacks happened towards the end of her work day. But, even though the events had happened more than 3,000 miles away, the feeling of horror and fear still permeated throughout her mind, especially since she had two friends working in the Pentagon at the time.

"I had two friends working in the Pentagon at the time, they were married," Hoefnagels recalls. "After I heard about the attacks, I immediately tried to email them to find out if they were alright. It took two days before I heard anything back from them; they were some of the longest days of my life."

But, though her friends were alright, it wouldn't be until later that Hoefnagels would find out just how lucky her two friends were.

After I heard from them, I was told that they both worked in the section that the plane had hit," she says. "But, that day, they weren't in their offices. The husband had left on TDY and the wife; she had two conflicting meetings scheduled that morning, one in the Pentagon and one in a different location. She decided to take the one that was outside the Pentagon."

Though Hoefnagels says that she thinks it's good to have ceremonies and commemorations, for her personally, it's easier to just sit and reflect on the day's events on her own.

"To have the ceremonies and memorials, to me is similar to commemorating the World Wars, it's something that you should never forget. But, for me, I'd rather just be on my own because it gives me more of a chance to think about everything that happened. The feelings are still the same as they were then and the world was forever changed in those moments. It's not the same anymore."

USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community

USAG Brussels hosts community information fair

By Thad Moyseowicz

Brussels Public Affairs Office

The Brussels Garrison hosted its annual "Information Fair" on Sept. 8, attended this year by the Honorable Tom C. Korologos, U.S. ambassador to Belgium, and his wife, Ann.

The event, a long-standing Brussels Community happening for years, has its origins in the uniqueness of the U.S. community whose support is USAG Brussels' number one mission. "We are both the smallest U.S. Army Garrison in Europe and one of a select few whose charter is to serve a community that is not only militarily "joint" but is also heavily "inter-agency" in its complexion," said Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Pat Kilroy. "The U.S. permanent representative to NATO is the only U.S. ambassador who reports to the U.S. secretaries of state and defense."

Add to this the substantial staffs of the U.S. military representative, the personal representative of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and U.S. personnel assigned to the NATO international and international military staffs, and it's easy to see why USAG Brussels truly serves a joint, interagency U.S. Community. "That's the mission that's been assigned to us by the U.S. Army," Kilroy said.

The diversity of the joint and interagency population served is a major reason for the Information Fair.

Long-time USAG Brussels Army Community Services (ACS) employee, Cathy Blumenthal, has served as the Garrison's "lead" for the past several Information Fairs. "Each year, we get in a large influx of newcomers during the summer PCS transfer season. The majority of these people, our customers, do not come from Army back-

grounds, so they have no knowledge of the services that ACS and other elements of traditional Army infrastructure can provide them. The Information Fair is our attempt to reach out to our customers," she said.

know about Brussels and Belgium from the perspective of what to do off-duty."

"For one day a year, we literally bring Brussels to the USAG Brussels compound," Blumenthal added. "Representatives from a host of organizations,

official, unofficial, U.S., non-U.S., set up booths within our compound, with the intent of providing our Brussels customers with one-stop shopping for 'everything you ever wanted to know about Brussels', but were afraid to ask."

This year's Fair featured over 100 exhibitors, and customers praised the event.

"I felt very welcomed by the rep," said Brussels newcomer Carol Baxter concerning the Free University of Brussels. "I was registered by the next day, and started classes the following Monday. What a great service!"

Even old-timers such as Emily Moseman found the Information Fair useful.

"This was my seventh Brussels info Fair, and it was the best laid-out," Moseman said. "I keep coming because I'm always looking for something new. I'm pretty Brussels-savvy, but I still keep learning new things at the Info Fairs that enhance my and my family's lives."



PHOTOS: Thad Moyseowicz

Community chorus member Carol Lamb tries to recruit Ambassador Korologos

Another reason for hosting an Information Fair relates to the far-flung nature of USAG Brussels' customer base.

"Unlike most Army posts overseas, the overwhelming majority of people we serve neither live in nor work within a relatively self-contained military installation," Kilroy said. "Our customers literally live and work all over metropolitan Brussels, and must know how to access not only USAG-provided services, but such Belgian offerings as banking, public transportation, language instruction, churches and communal representatives. And, of course, they need to

September 11, 2006: USAG Brussels delegation participates in NATO HQs ceremony

By Thad Moyseowicz

Brussels Public Affairs Office

A delegation of 27 U. S. Army Garrison (USAG) Brussels employees composed of Soldiers, Army civilians, Belgian and non-U.S. Garrison employees, headed by Deputy Garrison Commander Denise Davis, participated in a solemn ceremony at NATO Headquarters commemorating the fifth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the United States.

The ceremony, held at the entrance of NATO, was presided over by NATO Secretary-General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer.

De Hoop Scheffer spoke to NATO permanent and military representatives and other representatives of the NATO member and partner nations reminding them of the significance of the 9-11 attacks and how the NATO Alliance had, for the first time in history, reacted by invoking the Washington Treaty Article 5- that the attack upon the United States was an attack upon the entire Alliance. He noted the continuing peril of terrorism and NATO's heavy involvement in countering that threat today through its operations in Afghanistan and the Mediterranean.

The secretary-general's remarks were followed by the playing of "Taps," the lowering of all 26 of the alliance members' flags to half-staff, and the observance of a minute of silence at exactly 2:10 p.m.

Following the ceremony, the USAG Brussels group was introduced to the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, the Honorable Victoria Nuland, and to the U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee, Marine Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon.

USAG Brussels primary mission is to support U.S. military and civilian repre-



PHOTO: Carl Hale

All 26 alliance members' flags were lowered to half-staff



U.S. Army Garrison Brussels SATO Travel Agent Catherine Lavocat-Dubuis greets Ann Korologos

Garrisons test readiness with host nations



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Employees of U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen simulate wounds after a bomb explosion during a Force Protection emergency exercise held at the Schinnen Emma Mine Complex Sept. 15.



PHOTO: Vanessa Thonnard

The Belgian Civil Protection evacuates simulated casualties from the Single Service members Quarters at the Chièvres Garrison, Sept. 19. This exercise involved the explosion of a chemical bomb.



PHOTO: Vanessa Thonnard

Top picture: Staff Sgt. George Ramirez is taking photos of the incident scene while Sgt. Laura Williams is measuring the contamination level of the area. Both are part of the U. S. Army in Europe Emergency Management Assessment Team (EMAT) that was dispatched to Chièvres Air Base in support of the local exercise.

Left: Same EMAT team members prepare equipment to measure the contamination level after the simulated terrorist attack at Chièvres Air Base. The EMAT team and their Belgian Civil Protection counterparts worked hand in hand to take necessary actions based upon preliminary measurements.

PHOTO: Vanessa Thonnard

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which is to provide Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) distinguished visitors' airlift support but at the same time, any NATO country can fly to and from here once permission is granted by the airbase and SHAPE authorities," Koepsell continued. "I expect to come back to the same intensity of air traffic as in the year 2000 only two years after the works have been completed. It will take this time for missions that could no longer be supported by Chièvres air base to return here."

During the reconstruction, daily Air Force operations continue almost as usual with a reduction of personnel as the airfield is open for helicopter operations only.

Although 30 percent of Air Force personnel on base are providing manning assistance at other locations, many areas like the control tower, and



PHOTO: Master Sgt Carrol Anderson

The old drainage system which caused problems is now entirely being renovated.

fire department still have to be operational and manned for safe helicopter operations.

"In addition, we still have to scare birds away from the airfield, because if we don't, they would feel at home here and would attract more and more bird species," Anderson said. "Once they are here, it is hard to unsettle them and upon the runway reopening, these birds would be a major safety issue for the aircraft that is landing or taking off."

Although the work will stretch over a long period, it should not cause any inconveniences. All personnel working on the base are restricted from the construction area. Precautions have been taken as well to ensure road safety on N-56 from Mons to Ath.

Base officials encourage drivers to remain vigilant for increased traffic to include heavy construction trucks.

62 years ago

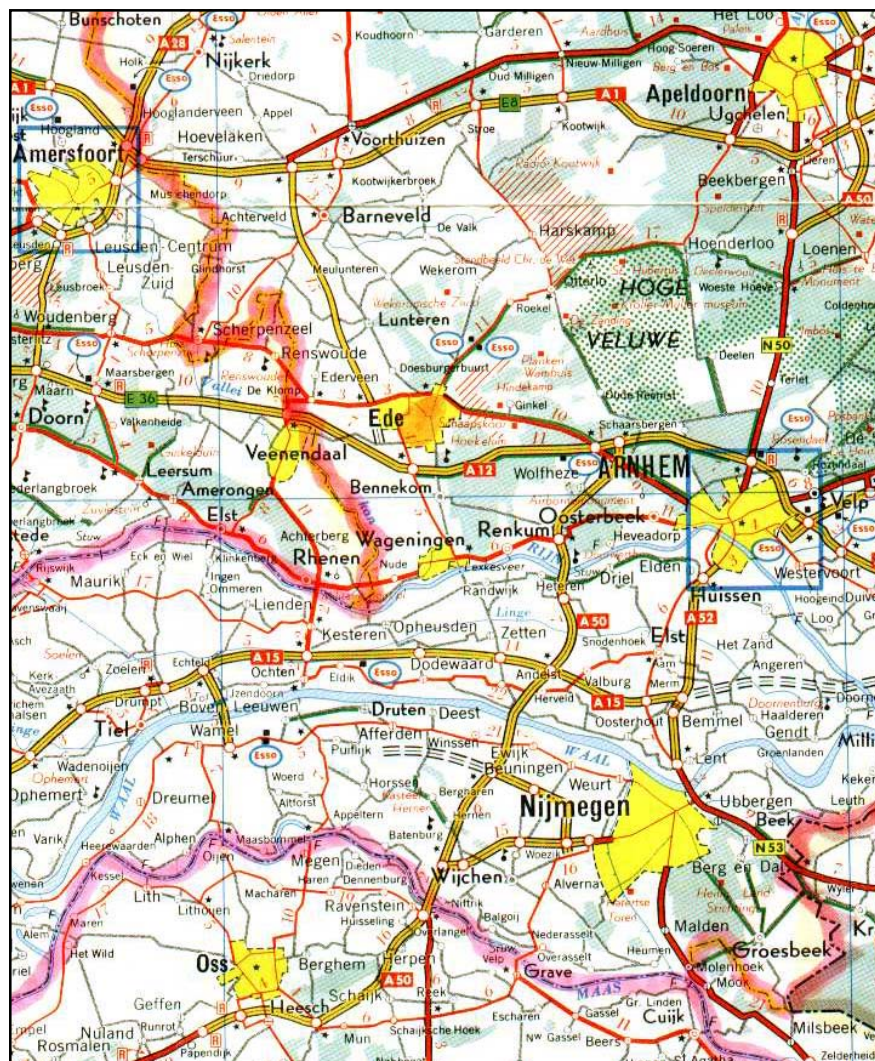
U.S. Airborne takes part in Operation Market Garden

Operation Market Garden was an Allied military operation in World War II that started on Sept. 17, 1944 and ended on Sept. 25, 1944. Its tactical objectives were

being delayed by a short engagement with two German anti-tank guns.

To their north, the 82nd Airborne arrived and the small

successfully against German attacks in Horst, Grafwegen,



Actual map of the Arnhem and Nijmegen area

to secure a series of bridges over the main rivers of the German-occupied Netherlands by large-scale use of airborne forces together with a rapid advance by armored units along the connecting roads, for the strategic purpose of allowing an Allied crossing of the Rhine river, the last major natural barrier to an advance into Germany.

The plan of action consisted of two coordinated operations:

Market: Airborne forces of the General Brereton's First Allied Airborne Army to seize bridges and other key terrain, under tactical command of General Browning. The American drop zones were in the area of Eindhoven and Nijmegen whereas the British drop zones were near Arnhem.

Garden: ground forces of the British 2nd Army to move north spearheaded by the British XXX Corps under Lieutenant General Brian Horrocks.

Operation Market-Garden opened with successes. The first lift was in daylight for accuracy, and almost all of the troops arrived on top of their target drop zones without incident. In the south the 101st Airborne met little resistance and captured four of the five bridges tasked to the Division. However, the bridge at Son was blown up as they approached it, after

being delayed by a short engagement with two German anti-tank guns. To their north, the 82nd Airborne arrived and the small group dropped near the city of Grave took the bridge intact in a rush. They also succeeded in taking one of the vitally important bridges over the Maas-Waal canal, the lockbridge at Heumen.

The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment was tasked with taking the 600-meter-long Nijmegen highway bridge if possible, but due to miscommunication they did not start until late on Sept. 19. Had they attacked earlier, they would have faced only a dozen Germans. By the time the attack was finally mounted, they were stopped by just-arriving troops of the 9th SS Reconnaissance battalion. This left the Nijmegen bridge in German hands. Unlike some of the bridges to the south, which were over smaller rivers and canals and could be bridged by engineering units, the Nijmegen and Arnhem bridges crossed two arms of the Rhine, and there was no possibility of easily bridging either. If either of the Nijmegen or Arnhem bridges were not captured and held then the advance of the British XXX Corps



Photos: U.S. National Archives

101st Airborne Soldiers approach their gliders

would be blocked and Operation Market Garden would fail.

On the Groesbeek heights to the east of Nijmegen, German forces continued to press on the 82nd. The 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment defended successfully against German attacks in Horst, Grafwegen,



The 82nd Airborne drop zone

and Riethorst.

The 101st, faced with the loss of the bridge at Son, unsuccessfully attempted to take the similar bridge a few kilometers away at Best, finding the approach blocked. Other units continued moving to the south and eventually reached the northern end of Eindhoven. At about noon on Sept. 18, they were met by reconnaissance units from the British XXX Corps. At 4 p.m., they made radio contact with the main force to the south and told them about the Son bridge, asking for a Bailey bridge to be brought forward.

The British XXX Corps soon arrived in Eindhoven, and by that night were bivouacked south of Son while they waited for the Royal Engineers to erect the Bailey bridge. At the end of two days the operation was 36 hours behind schedule, with both primary bridges still in German hands.

A combined effort to take the Nijmegen bridge was mounted by two companies from the British Guards Armored Division and the U.S. 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The attack got within 400 yards of the bridge before being stopped; skirmishing continued throughout the night. A plan was developed to attack the south end of the bridge again while the U.S. 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment planned to cross the river in boats a mile downstream and then attack the north end. The boats, requested for late afternoon, never arrived. Once again the British XXX Corps was held up in front of a bridge.

To their south, units of the 101st sent to take Best the day before were forced to yield to German counterattacks during the morning. British tanks arriving during the day helped push back the Germans by late afternoon. Later a small force of Panthers arrived at Son, and started firing on the Bailey bridge. These, too, were beaten back by anti-tank guns that had recently landed, and the bridge was secured.

The Nijmegen bridge was secured after four days of struggle by the U.S. 2nd Battalion, 505th PIR. The German plan was now to cut the highway, which would split up the Airborne units and cut off the advance elements of the British XXX Corps.

As a reminder, the British 1st Airborne whose objective was to take the bridge over the Rhine in Arnhem, was dropped too far from its objective. It is only late on Sept. 18 that the British 1st and 3rd Parachute Battalion enter Arnhem. They will hold the bridge until Sept. 21 in the morning. Over 10,000 British paras died in Arnhem. The late arrival of the Polish Parachute Brigade did not change the situation.

The city of Arnhem was finally liberated by the 1st Canadian Corps on Apr. 14, 1945 after two days of fighting. The prized Arnhem bridge did not survive the war.

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